

Appl. No. 09/997,347
Amdt. Dated March 22, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 22, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A method of adhering an item to an area of a surface of a vehicle glazing, the surface being exposed to the exterior of the vehicle and having a hydrophobic coating disposed thereon, comprising:

irradiating the hydrophobic coating on the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing with UV radiation having a dominant wavelength in the range of 100 to 200 nm, thus substantially removing the hydrophobic coating disposed on the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing; and

adhering the item to the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic coating is chosen from a group consisting of polysiloxane, polyfluorosiloxane, or diamond-like carbon.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the dominant wavelength is approximately 172 nm.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein a water contact angle that is greater than or equal to 100 degrees is realized on the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing prior to irradiating the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing for 120 seconds or less, and a water contact angle that is less than or equal to 30 degrees is realized on the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing following the irradiating of the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing.

27. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

applying an adhesive promoting primer to the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing from which the hydrophobic coating has been removed; and

applying an adhesive to the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing from which the hydrophobic coating has been removed.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the adhesive promoting primer comprises silane and the adhesive is chosen from a group consisting of a cyanoacrylate, urethane, epoxy, acrylic, hot melt silicone, or pressure sensitive adhesive.

29. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the item comprises an elastomeric member.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the elastomeric member comprises a gasket.

31. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the item comprises a vehicular hardware device.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the vehicular hardware device comprises a fastening device.

33. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the vehicular hardware device comprises a mounting device.

34. (New) A method of selectively removing a hydrophobic coating that is disposed on an area of a surface of a vehicle glazing, the surface being exposed to the exterior of the vehicle, comprising:

providing a source of UV radiation having a dominant wavelength in the range of 100 to 200 nm;

utilizing electro-mechanical means to provide relative movement between the source of UV radiation and the hydrophobic coating to irradiate the area of the

surface of the hydrophobic coating, thus selectively removing the hydrophobic coating disposed on the area of the surface of the vehicle glazing.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the hydrophobic coating is chosen from a group consisting of polysiloxane, polyfluorosiloxane, or diamond-like carbon.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the dominant wavelength is approximately 172 nm.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the electro-mechanical means comprises a robot arm.

38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the electro-mechanical means further comprises a vision system in communication with the robot arm.